SAVE MINERAL KING?

Should Mineral King be turned into a wilderness area?
Be developed as an all year family recreation area?

*** Save Mineral King / For a few**

--- NONE THIS WEEK ---

*****

*** Save Mineral King / For many**

Dear Mr. Albee,

After attending the slide show and meeting on Mineral King Sunday night, July 15th, I feel compelled to make my feelings known.

The pictures were beautiful, many of which however, could have been taken any place in the surrounding foothills. I did not approve of showing the entry sign to Synanon as presumably being associated with the Mineral King area, as it has no connection what-so-ever with Mineral King.

I was quite upset too with the impression given me, by these young people, that private enterprise was a demon to society set on destroying the country. If it hadn't been for private business there would be no road into the Mineral King area today and, most people wouldn't even know it was there, much less ever being able to view it.

It must be remembered that private enterprise is the foundation of our great country and without it we would have socialism, communism and eventual slaveryism.

Many millions of dollars have been appropriated by the taxpayers for parks and recreation. This money was intended to better use the parks and increase recreational facilities. It is however, being used to purchase more property while seemingly trying to prevent people from enjoying it. It seems like some people can't realize that the only way government can have money to buy land is to first take that money away from the taxpayer, and private enterprise is it's only source of revenue. Even government employees, be they city, county, state or federal receive their salaries and thus their tax monies from private business.

I truly believe that Disney Productions would do a magnificent job of utilizing and protecting our God-given resources to best benefit all mankind. And, if economics is to be considered here, as it should, a great deal of money would be saved by allowing private enterprise rather than government develop and maintain this area, for any time government operates any facility the cost is enormously high and no revenue is reaped. There was a time when people were encouraged to homestead and utilize the lands so that that land would become an asset to the people rather than a liability.

The Mineral King development is not the complete issue here. If the Sierra Club succeeds in stopping this type of growth, it will mean the eventual forbiding of people to visit and use the lands that are theirs. When there is an increase of population in an area, more lands, not less, should be opened to the public. Pollution would be far less. Even animals have more sense than to all congregate in a small area. They spread themselves over a wide territory for they know that if they don't they will soon deplete their feeding lands and eventually destroy themselves.

It is frightening to think of the power a small group of people can have.

It seems to me that the Sierra Club is trying to say, "this land is my land - you keep out!"

Many environmentalists, in my opinion, are a bunch of hypocrates. They drive as far as they can on our roads and then hike – if they are so set against roads they shouldn't use them at all – this would eliminate a lot of pollution.

Many of us love to go hiking and camping and to be bared from public land would be disastrous. I hope people will not allow themselves to be told, "stay in the cities (where we can control you completely) you cannot set foot outside your home".

If we ever lose our freedom to come and go as we wish – we will be slaves and God help us!

Gloria Markley
Star Route
Lemoncove

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News from Sequoia and Kings Canyon

It was a happy occasion at the dinner party for retiring John S. McLaughlin. NPS Photo

Dinner party for retiring Park official, John McLaughlin

Friends and co-workers from the San Joaquin Valley, San Francisco and as far away as Idaho & Colorado, assembled at the Memorial Building in Three Rivers recently to honor John and Gen McLaughlin with a gala dinner party.

The retiring "Dean of Superintendents" received many plaudits and fun-type gifts, recalling many events of his illustrous career. An album of letters and a Citation of Government Service signed by Director Ronald H. Walker, was the highlight of the evening.

Mr. McLaughlin chose to retire from the National Park Service after nearly 45 years of service. He had just completed a study of national parks in Kenya, Africa, under the sponsorship of the African Wildlife Leadership Foundation, and was serving as Assistant Regional Director of the Western Region of the National Park Service, Prior to that he was Superintendent of Sequoia and Kings Canyon National Parks for five years.

"Johnny Mac" started as a Park Ranger at Yellowstone National Park in 1928. He rose rapidly in the ranks, serving as Assistant Chief Park Ranger, Chief Park Ranger, Assistant Superintendent, and then Superintendent, at Yellowstone, Rocky Mountain and Mesa Verde National Parks. He also gave his leadership as Superintendent at Grand Teton, Grand Canyon, and Yellowstone National Parks.

Mr. McLaughlin served in the Omaha Regional Office, and in the Washington Office of the National Park Service. During World War II, he served in the Air Force from 1943 to 1946 and holds the rank of Lt. Col. (AF-Res.) Retired.

Many honors and accomplishments are a hallmark of Mr. McLaughlin's career. Under auspices of the New York Zoological Society, he was a member of a team which studied the national parks in Tanzania in 1962. He represented the National Park Service at the International Union for the Conservation of Nature Technical Meetings in 1963 in Nairobi, Kenya. He was a member of National Parks Commission of that same organization, which toured Albert National Park, Congo, and Uganda National Parks in 1963. He chaired the NPS field study team in the North Cascades in 1963, and the NPS field study team which recommended a park plan for American Samoa in 1963. And, he received the Distinguished Service Award in 1966.

The McLaughlin's are now living in Visalia while they ponder their next step to an interesting second career.

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